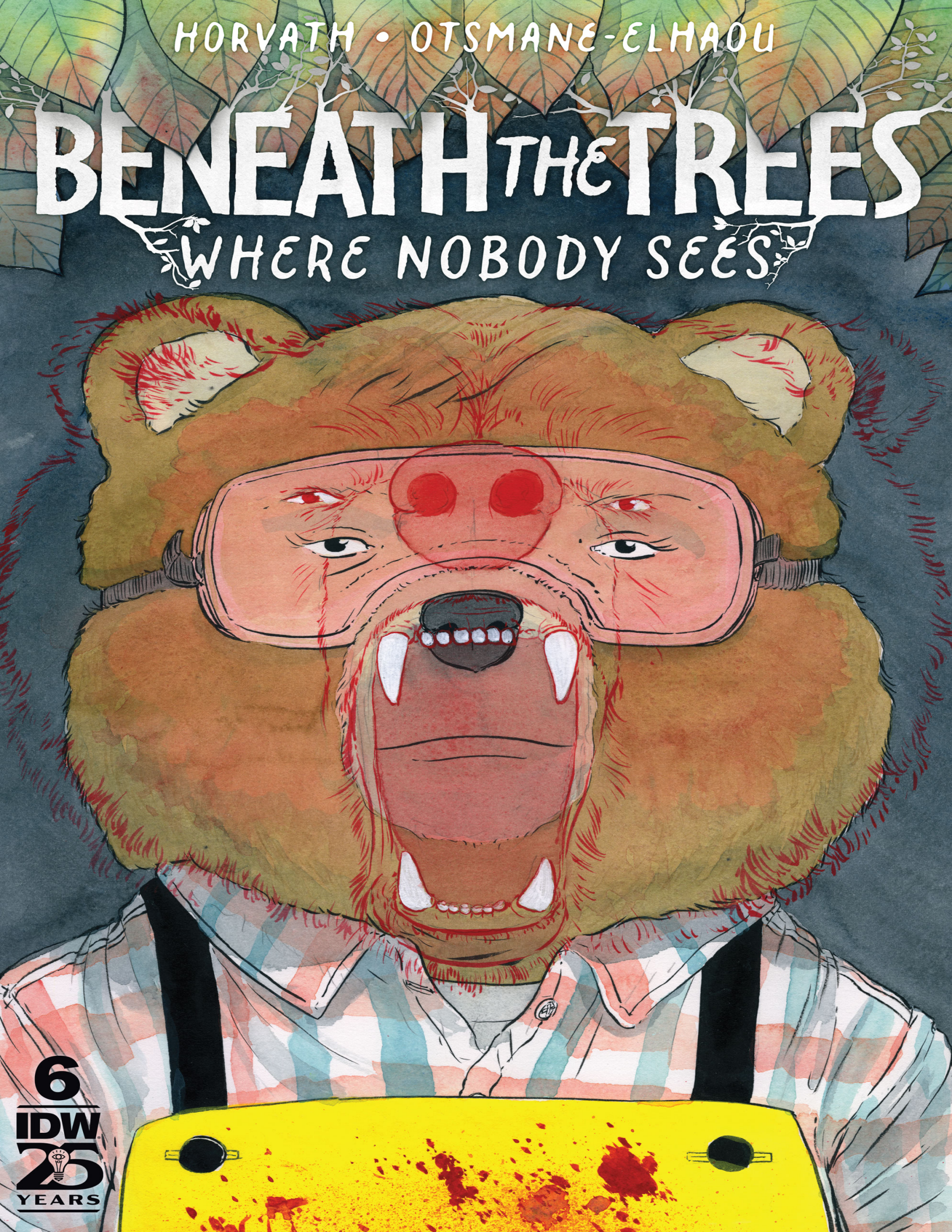
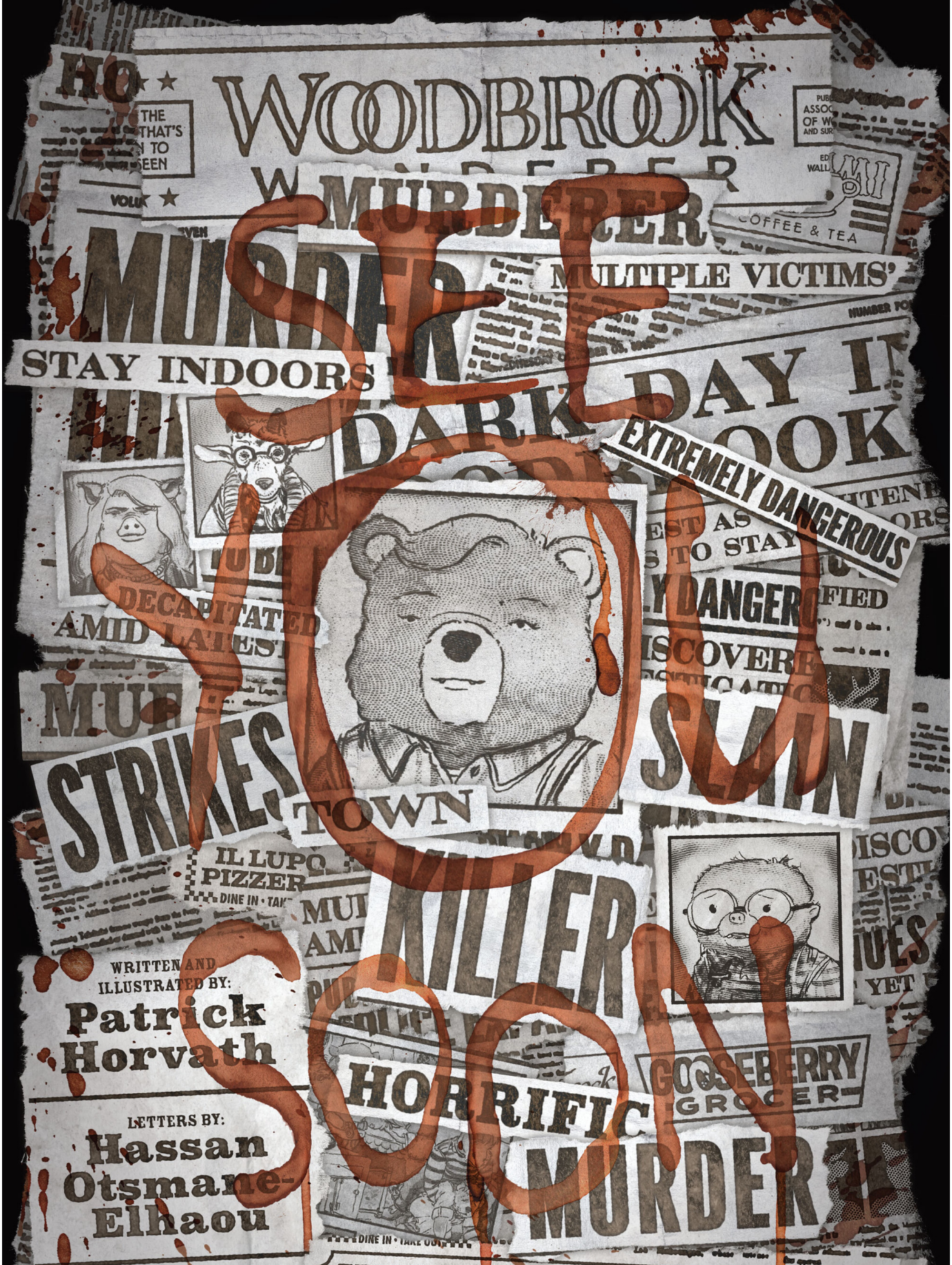
HORVATH • OTSMANE-ELHAOU

BENEATH THE TREES WHERE NOBODY SEES



6

IDW 25 YEARS



SOON

WRITTEN AND ILLUSTRATED BY:
Patrick Horvath

LETTERS BY:
Hassan Otsmane-Elhaou

EDITOR:
Maggie Howell

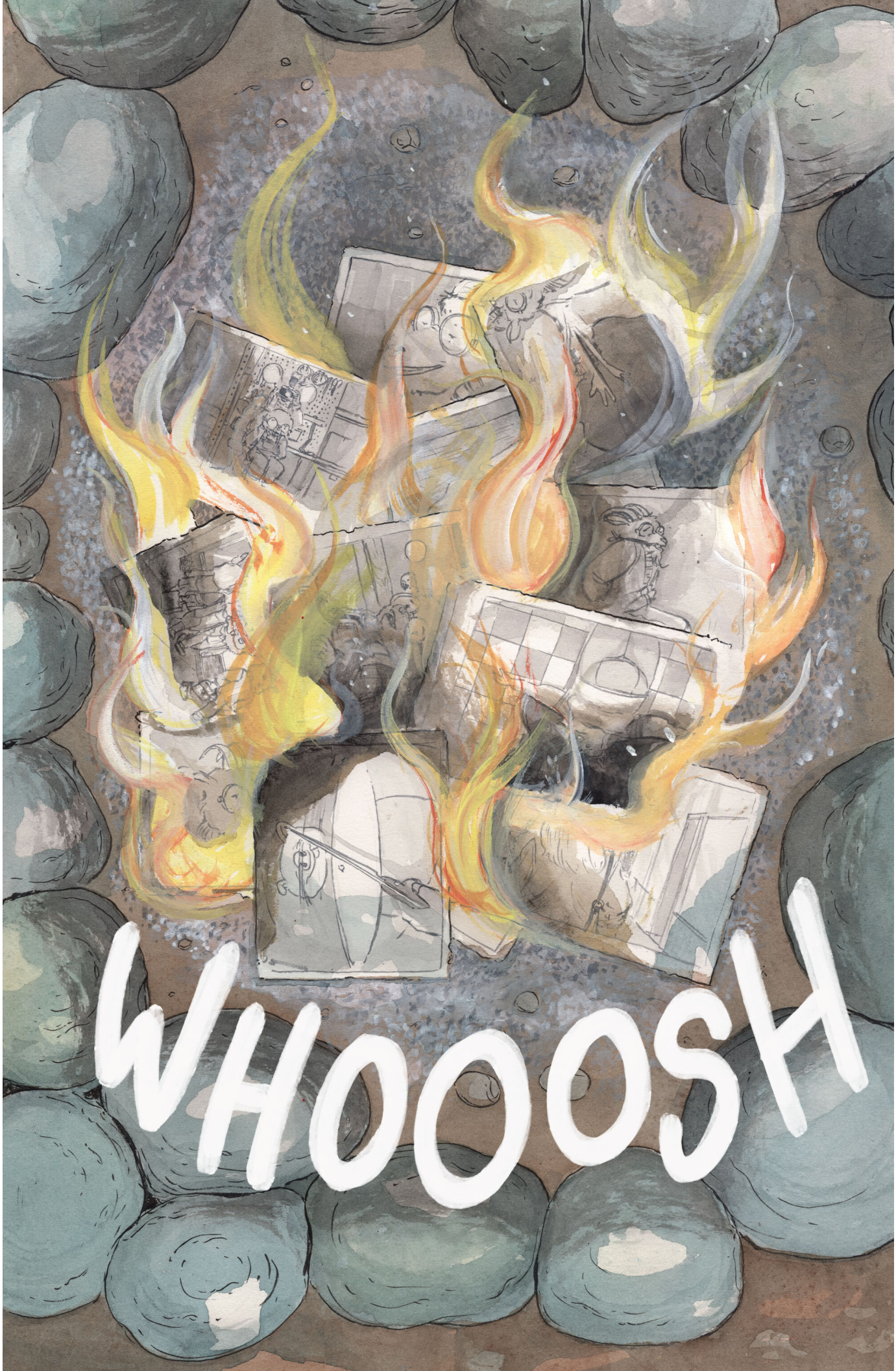
ASSOCIATE EDITOR:
Jake Williams

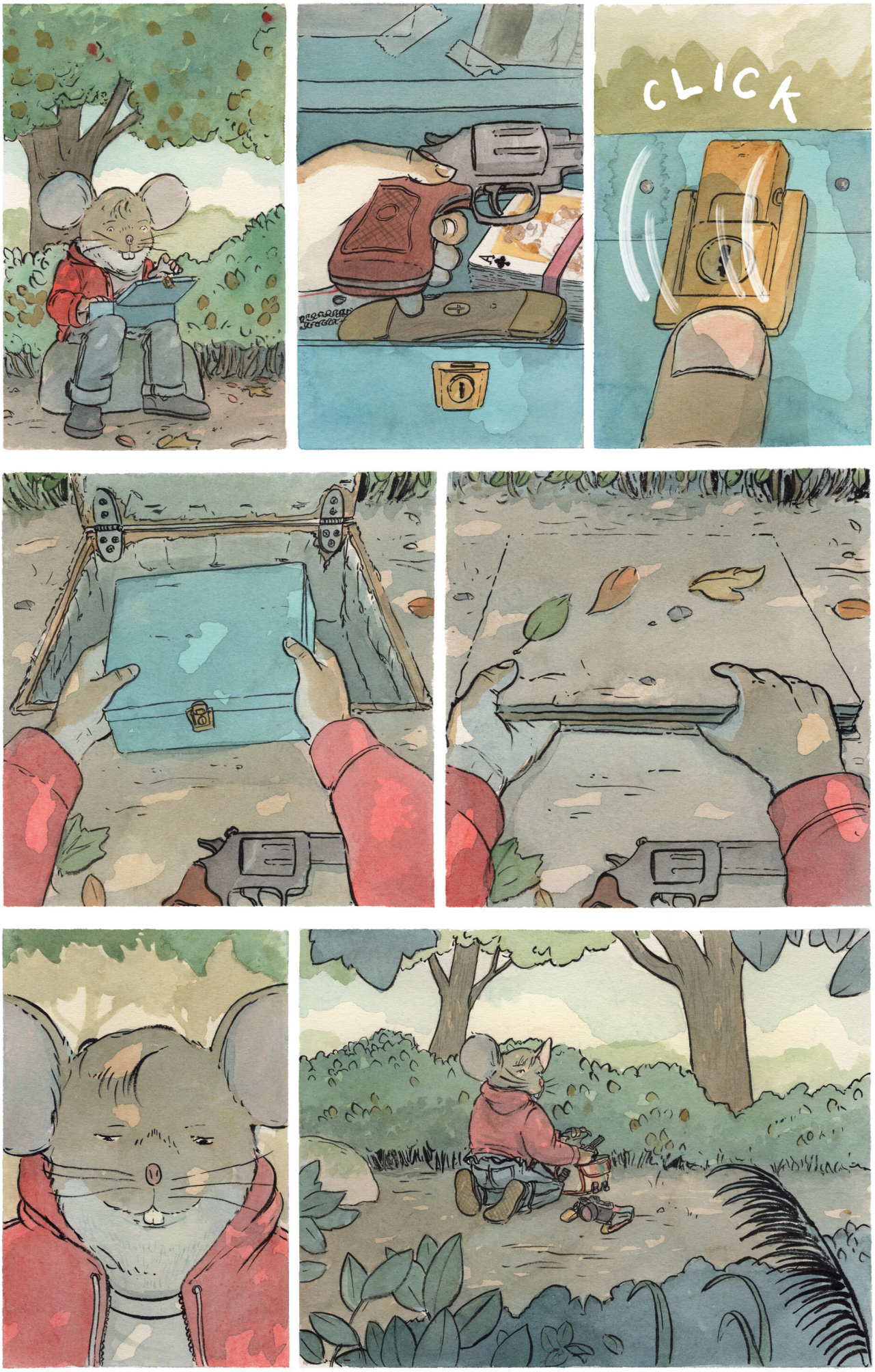
PRODUCTION AND DESIGN BY:
Nathan Widick

IDW. @IDWpublishing IDWpublishing.com

BENEATH THE TREES WHERE NOBODY SEES #6. MAY 2024. FIRST PRINTING. ©2024 Patrick Horvath. IDW Publishing, a division of Idea and Design Works, LLC. Editorial offices: 14144 Ventura Blvd, Suite 210, Sherman Oaks, CA 91423. The IDW logo is registered in the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office. Any similarities to persons living or dead are purely coincidental. With the exception of artwork used for review purposes, none of the contents of this publication may be reprinted without the permission of Idea and Design Works, LLC. IDW Publishing does not read or accept unsolicited submissions of ideas, stories, or artwork. Davidi Jonas, CEO • Amber Huerta, COO • Mark Doyle, Co-Publisher • Tara McCrillis, Co-Publisher • Jamie S. Rich, Editor-In-Chief • Scott Dunbier, VP Special Projects • Sean Brice, Sr. Director Sales & Marketing • Aub Driver, Director of Marketing • Greg Katzman, Sr. Manager Public Relations • Lauren LePera, Sr. Managing Editor • Shauna Monteforte, Sr. Director of Manufacturing Operations • Jamie Miller, Director Publishing Operations • Ryan Balkam, Direct Market Sales • Nathan Widick, Director of Design • Neil Uyetake, Sr. Art Director, Design & Production • Ted Adams and Robbie Robbins, IDW Founders. For international rights, contact licensing@idwpublishing.com.

SHOP LOCAL
FLICK


WHOOOSH


CLICK

HEY THERE.
YOU HERE ALL BY YOURSELF?

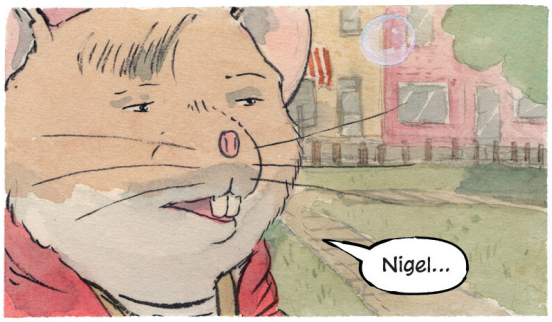
I'M HERE WITH MY DAD.
Oh, okay...
POP

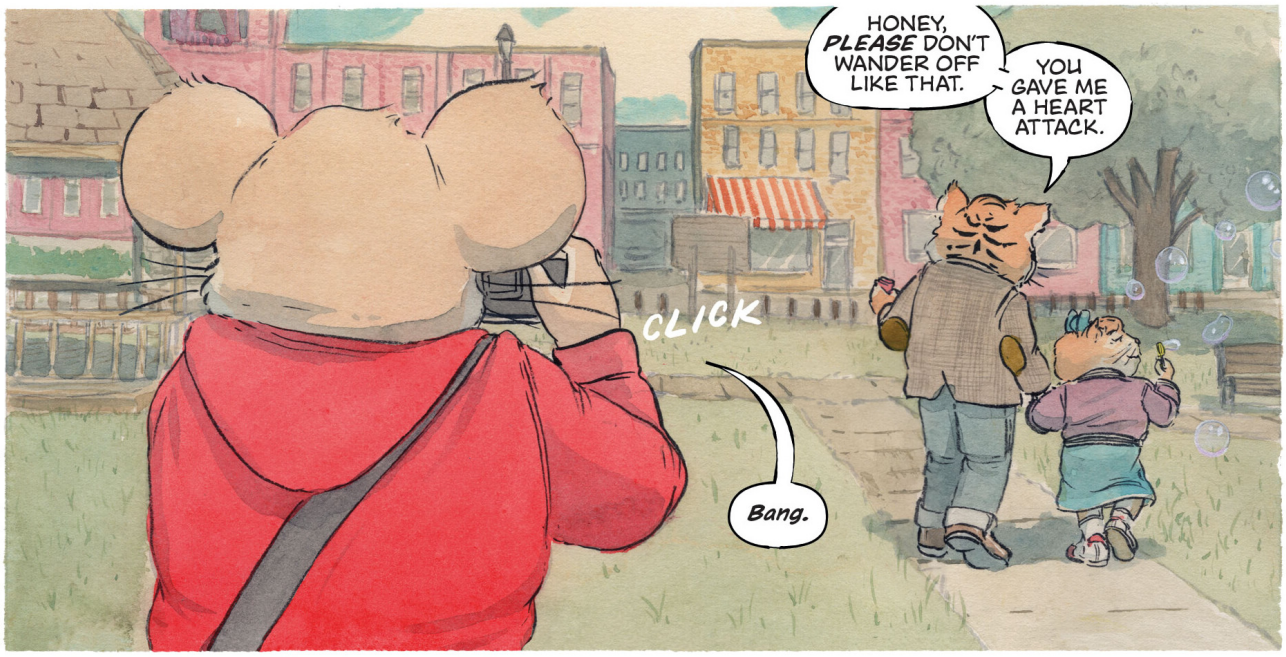
...I JUST DIDN'T SEE ANYONE AROUND EXCEPT FOR YOU AND ME.

SALLY!

THERE YOU ARE.
YEP, HERE WE ARE.

THANKS FOR LOOKING AFTER SALLY, *uh...*
...it's ***Oliver,*** right?

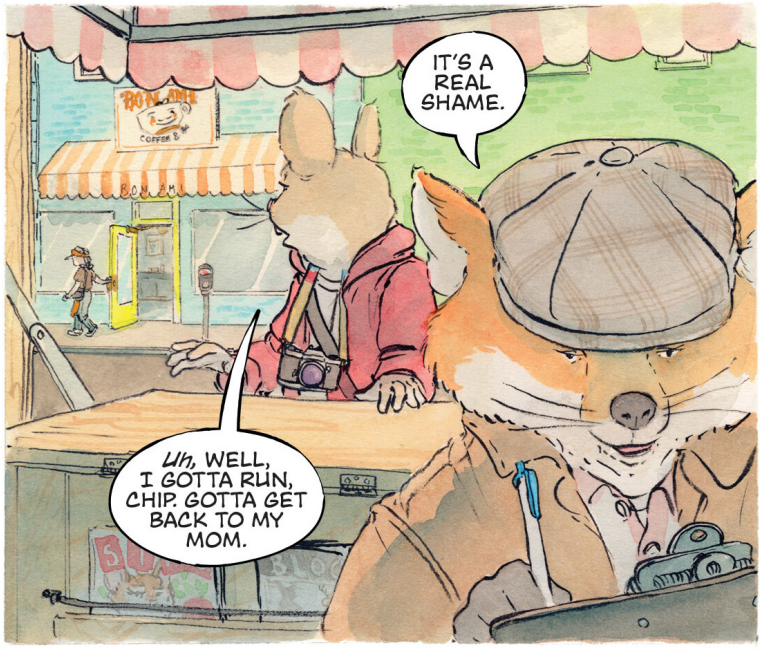

Nigel...


HONEY, ***PLEASE*** DON'T WANDER OFF LIKE THAT.
YOU GAVE ME A HEART ATTACK.
CLICK
Bang.

ALL THE NEWS THAT'S KEEN TO BE SEEN
WOODBROOK WANDERER
PUBLISHED BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS OF WOODBROOK AND SURROUNDING AREAS
EDITOR IN CHIEF: WALLACE HAMPTON
VOLUME SEVEN
MONDAY OCTOBER 9, 1986
NUMBER 283
SAMANTHA STRONG
COMMUNITY KILLER ON THE RUN

IT'S ALWAYS THE ONES YOU'D *NEVER SUSPECT,* *huh,* CHIP?

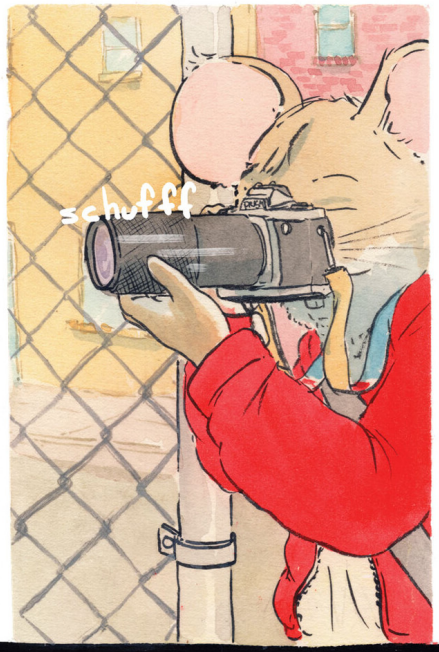
THAT'S THE TRUTH.
TWENTY-FIVE YEARS I LIVED NEXT TO HER. I MEAN, *sure,* EVERYONE ACTS STRANGE EVERY ONCE IN A WHILE, BUT YEAH...
...I STILL CAN'T BELIEVE IT.

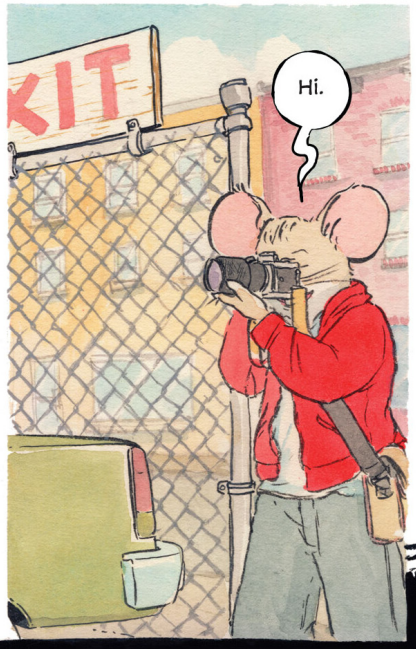

IT'S A REAL SHAME.
Uh, WELL, I GOTTA RUN, CHIP. GOTTA GET BACK TO MY MOM.

SAY HEY TO LOLA FOR ME.
YOU'RE A REAL ***SWEET KID,*** NIGEL.

PARKING
CUSTOMERS ONLY

ch-chak


schufff


Hi.

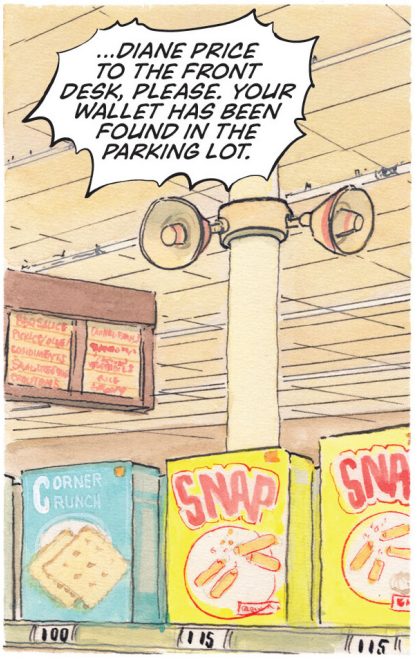
A
4000
2000
500
250
125
60
30
15
8
4
2
1
2
4
8
M
B
Apple Juice
26¢
BREAD
BUY 1
GET 1
FREE
19
39

CLICK

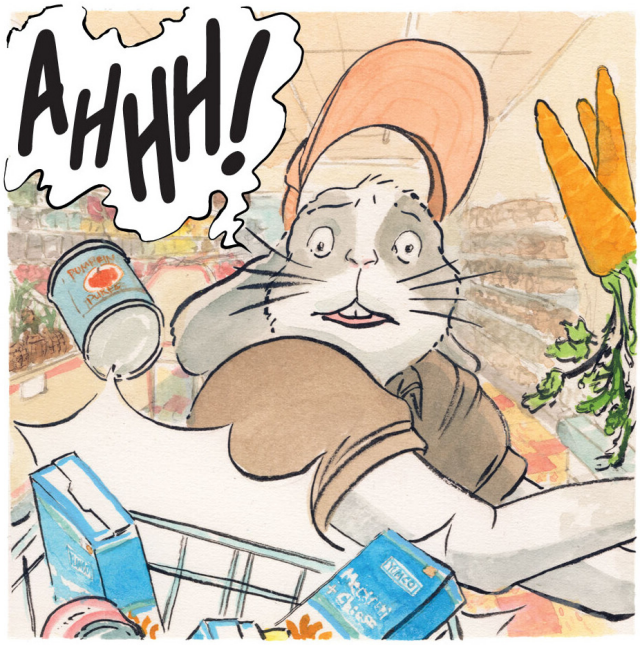
PEANUT BUTTER
HONEY
SYRUPS
SPICES
GRANOLA
OIL
CEREAL
BAKING NEEDS
EXIT

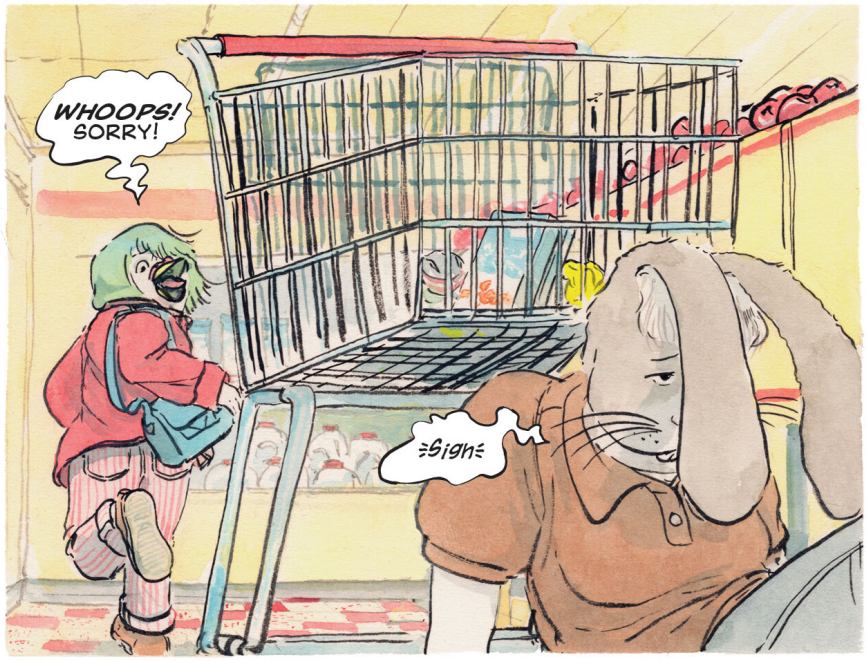
NEEDS
CEREAL

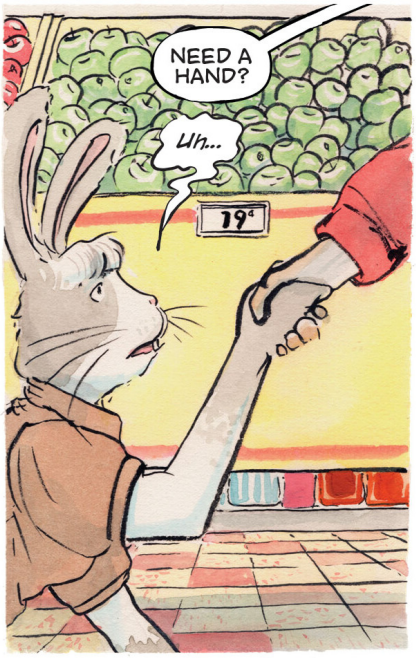
ATTENTION, SHOPPERS. DIANE PRICE, PLEASE COME TO THE CUSTOMER SERVICE DESK...


...DIANE PRICE TO THE FRONT DESK, PLEASE. YOUR WALLET HAS BEEN FOUND IN THE PARKING LOT.
CORNER CRUNCH
SNAP

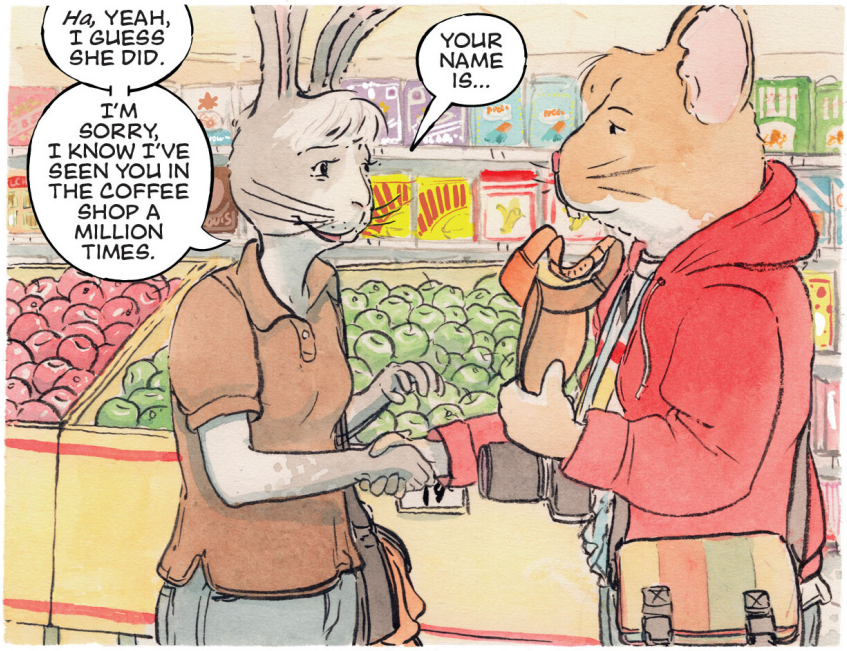
OH MY GOD, MY WALLET?!

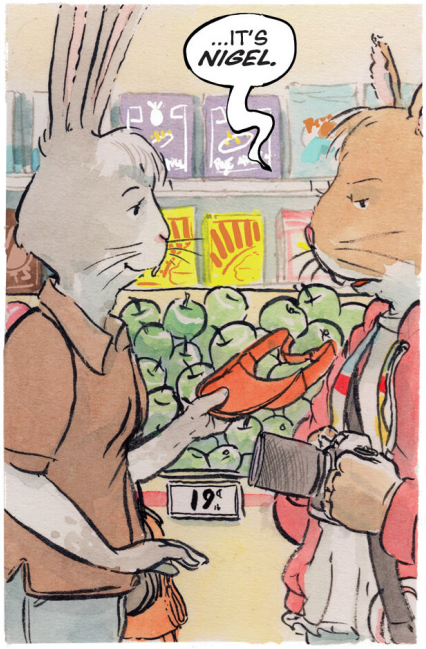

AHHH!

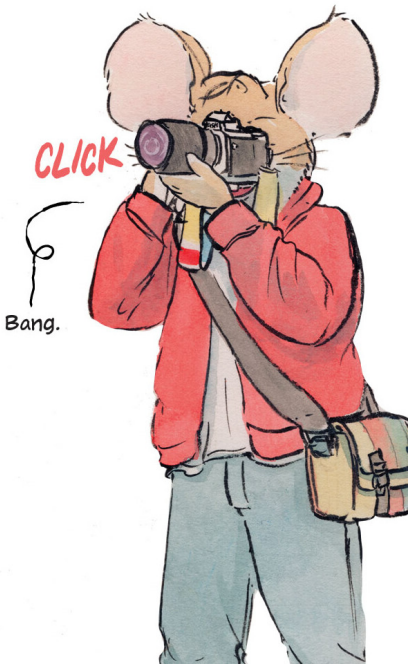

WHOOPS! SORRY!
=Sigh=


NEED A HAND?
Uh...
19¢

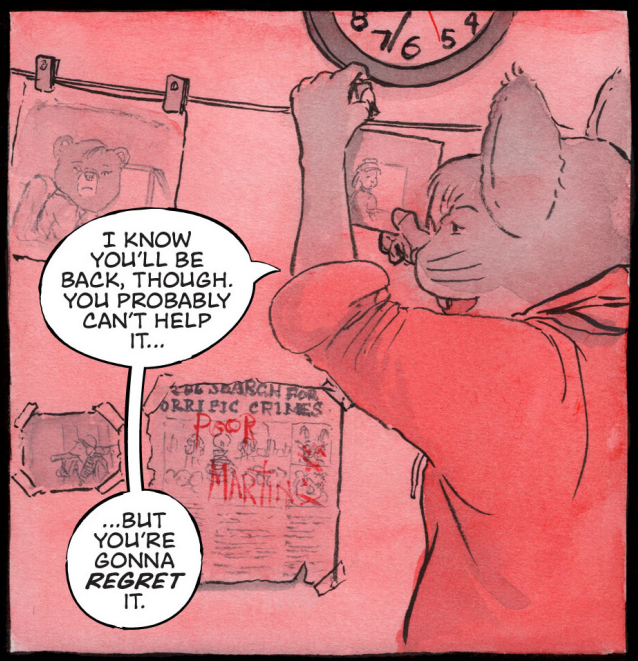
Boy, SHE REALLY JUST SMACKED INTO YOU AND RAN OFF, huh?


Ha, YEAH, I GUESS SHE DID.
I'M SORRY, I KNOW I'VE SEEN YOU IN THE COFFEE SHOP A MILLION TIMES.
YOUR NAME IS...


...IT'S NIGEL.
19¢

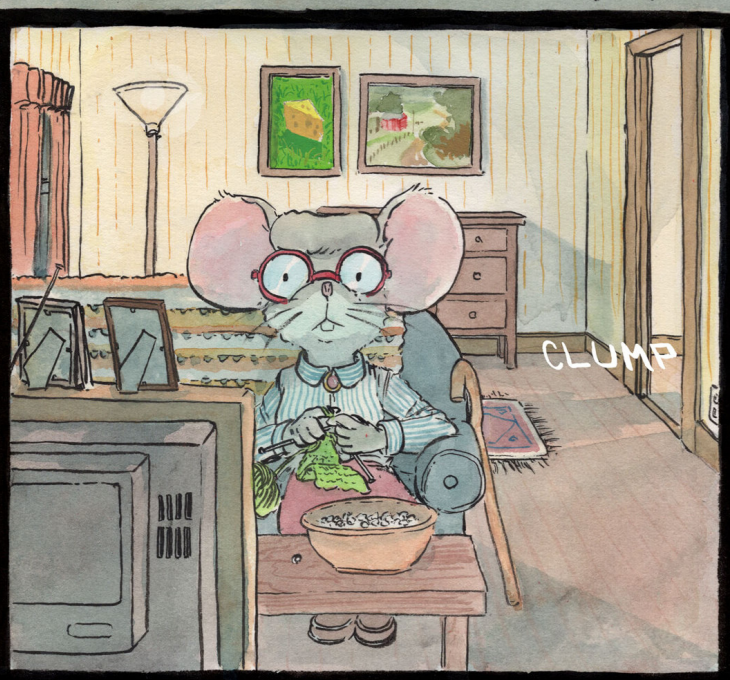

CLICK
Bang.

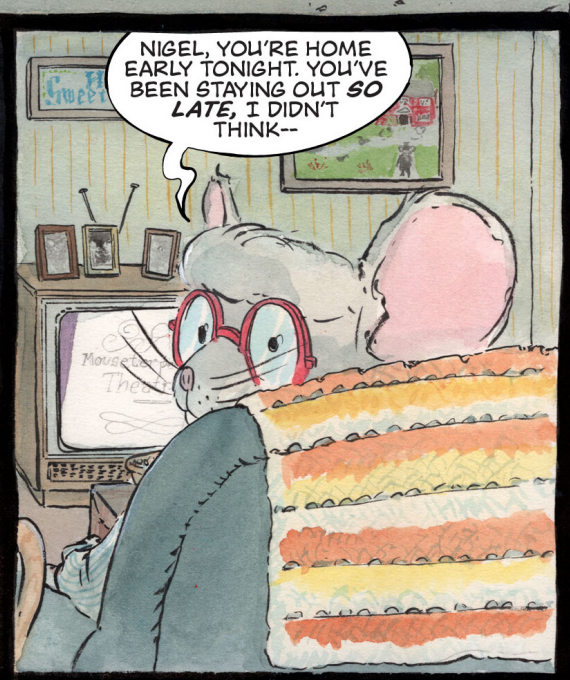
WITH YOU ON THE RUN, THIS IS LIKE SHOOTING FISH IN A BARREL.


I KNOW YOU'LL BE BACK, THOUGH. YOU PROBABLY CAN'T HELP IT...
...BUT YOU'RE GONNA *REGRET* IT.

WEEKLY RATES
RENT
#3

218

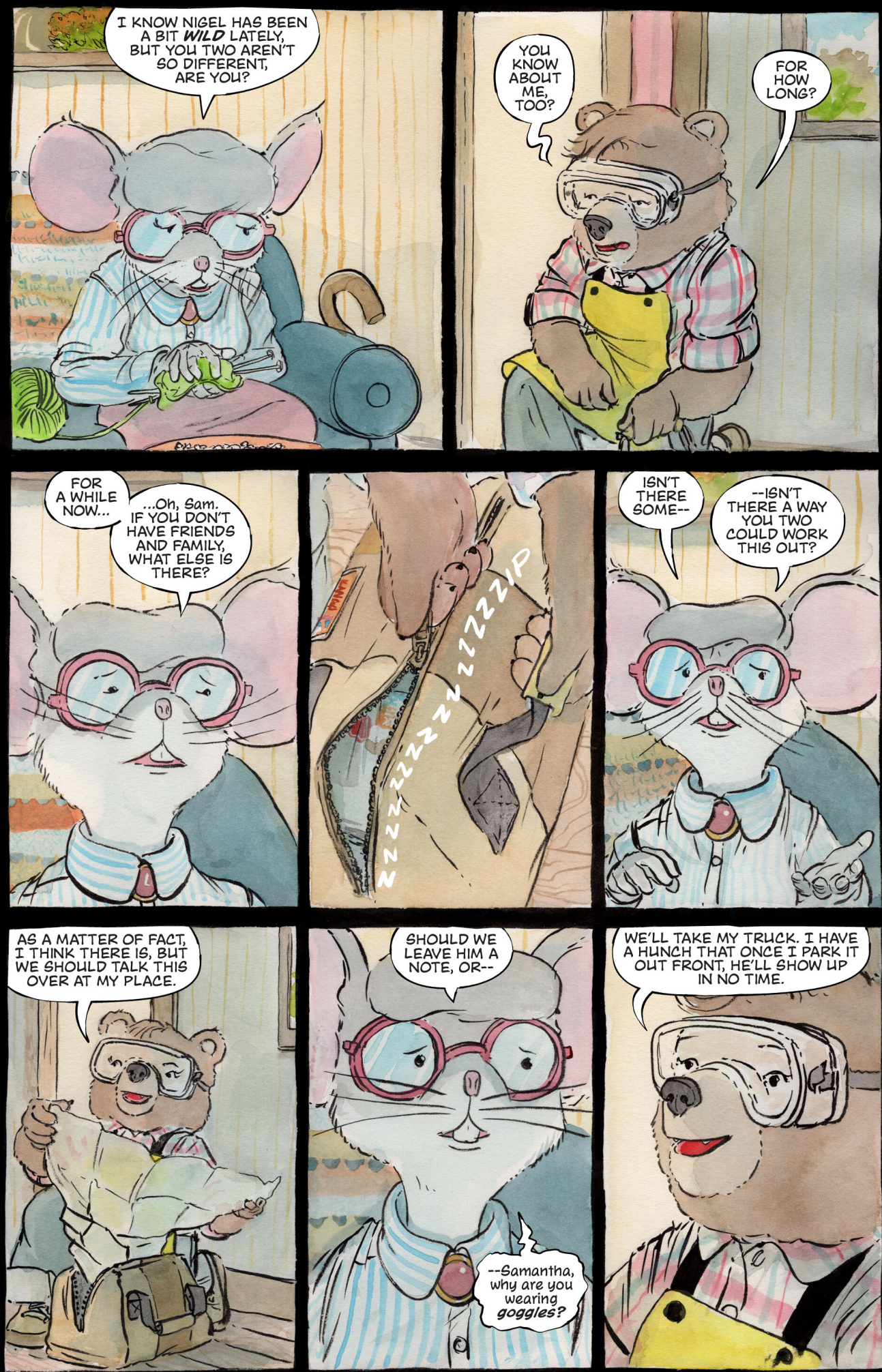

CLUMP

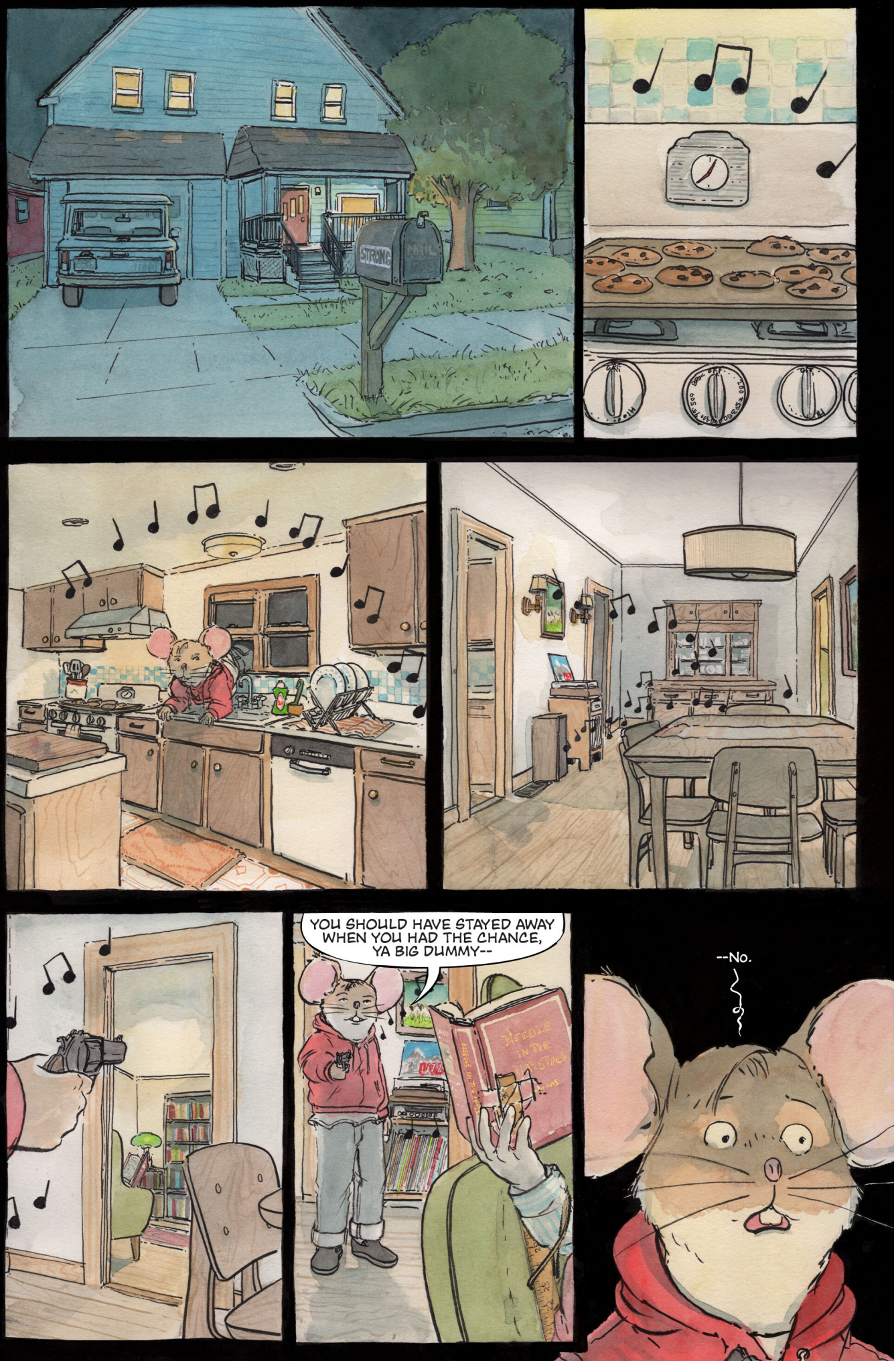

NIGEL, YOU'RE HOME EARLY TONIGHT. YOU'VE BEEN STAYING OUT ***SO LATE,*** I DIDN'T THINK--

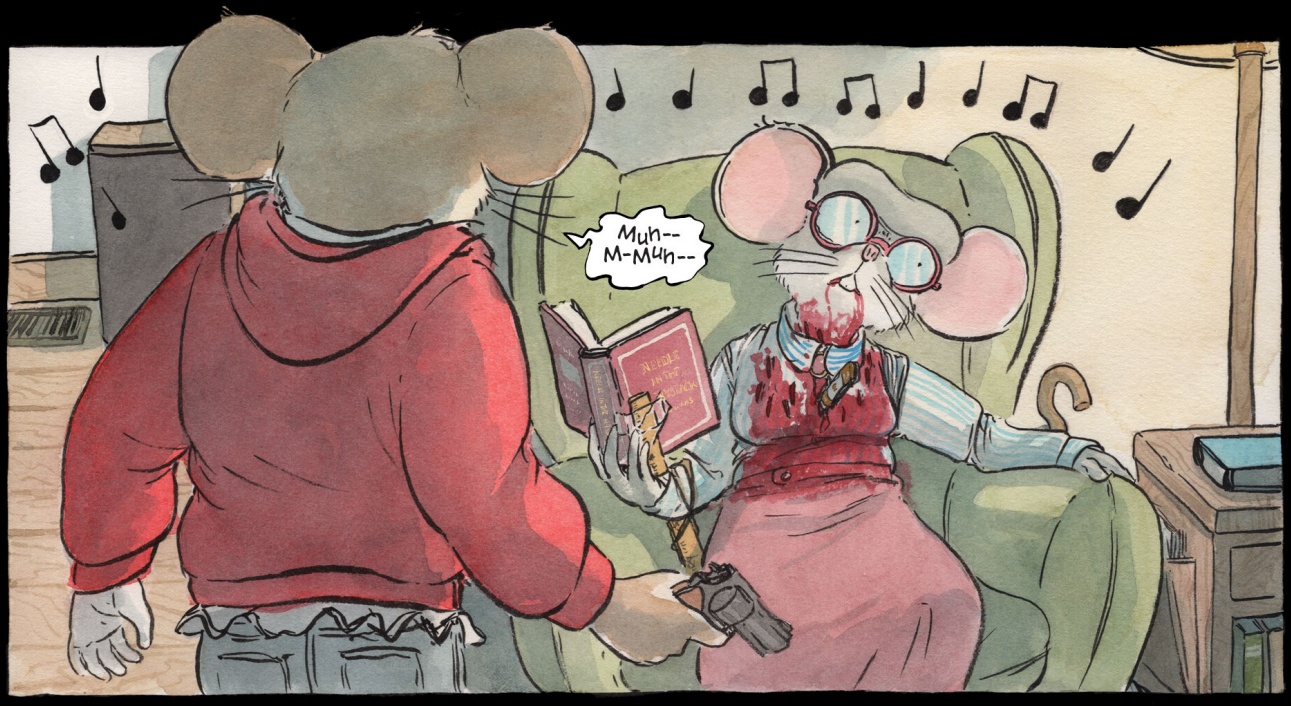
S-Sam?!
Hey, Lola.
THE WHOLE TOWN'S LOOKING FOR YOU!

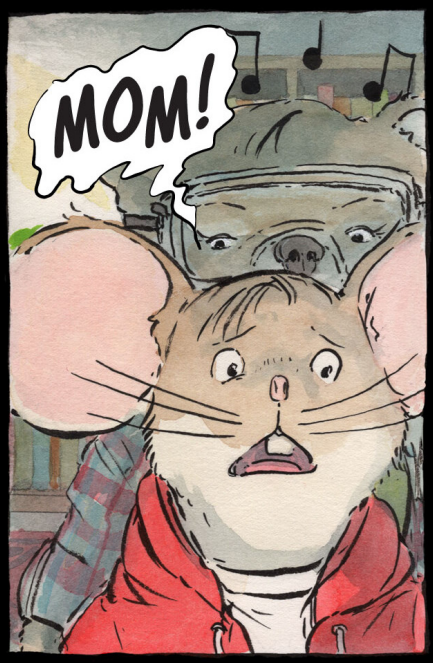
THEY'RE AFTER THE ***WRONG*** PERSON.
IT'S ***NIGEL*** THEY WANT... HE KILLED THEM ALL.
SEE?! I ***KNEW*** YOU DIDN'T DO IT!

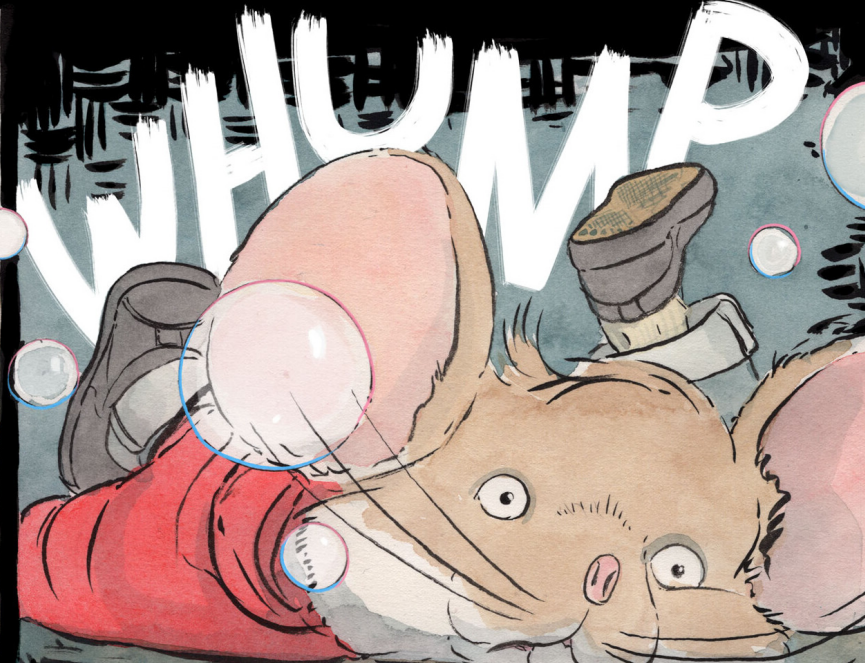
...and I guess I knew that, too.


I KNOW NIGEL HAS BEEN A BIT *WILD* LATELY, BUT YOU TWO AREN'T SO DIFFERENT, ARE YOU?
YOU KNOW ABOUT ME, TOO?
FOR HOW LONG?
FOR A WHILE NOW...
...Oh, Sam. IF YOU DON'T HAVE FRIENDS AND FAMILY, WHAT ELSE IS THERE?
ZZZZZZZZZZZZZZZZZZZIP
ISN'T THERE SOME--
--ISN'T THERE A WAY YOU TWO COULD WORK THIS OUT?
AS A MATTER OF FACT, I THINK THERE IS, BUT WE SHOULD TALK THIS OVER AT MY PLACE.
SHOULD WE LEAVE HIM A NOTE, OR--
--Samantha, why are you wearing *goggles?*
WE'LL TAKE MY TRUCK. I HAVE A HUNCH THAT ONCE I PARK IT OUT FRONT, HE'LL SHOW UP IN NO TIME.


STRONG
YOU SHOULD HAVE STAYED AWAY WHEN YOU HAD THE CHANCE, YA BIG DUMMY--
--No.


Мин--
М-Мин--


MOM!


WHUMP

HEY, NIGEL. I JUST INJECTED YOU WITH *CURARE.*

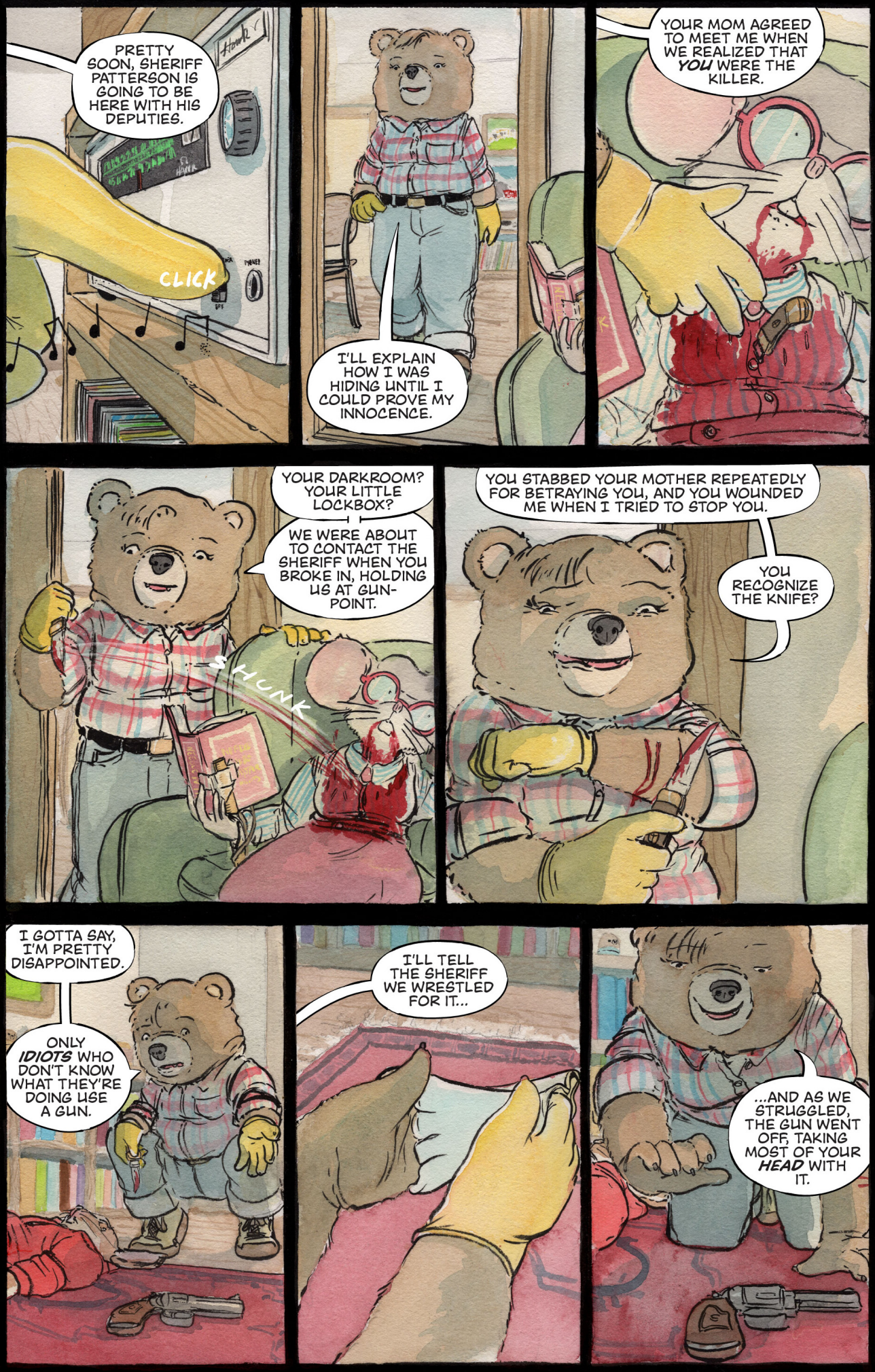
IT'S BLOCKING YOUR NEUROMUSCULAR TRANSMISSIONS, WHICH IS WHY YOU CAN'T MOVE ANYMORE.
FWUMP

I USED TO USE *BOTULINUM,* BUT I LIKE CURARE BETTER.

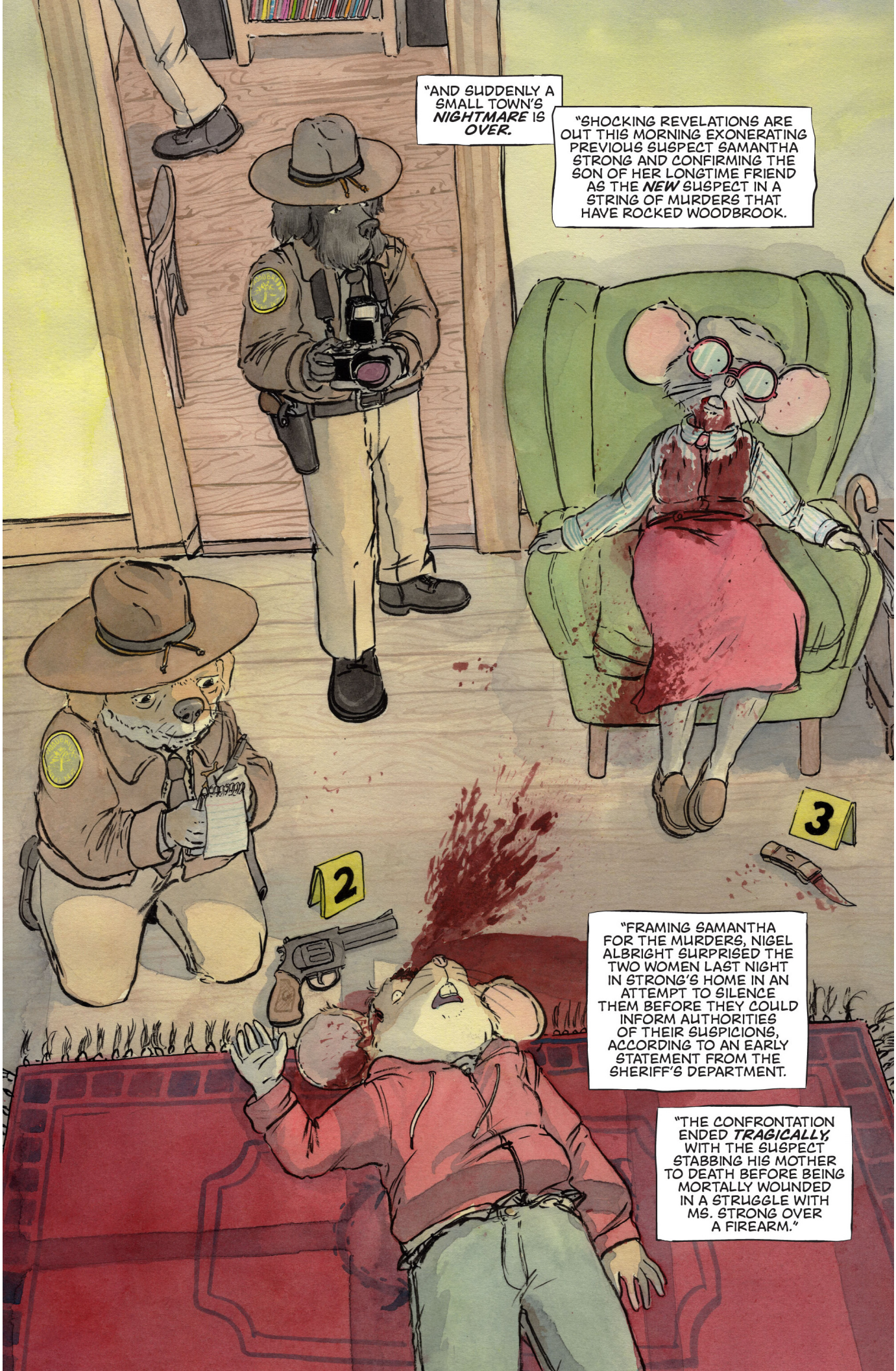
YOU CAN GROW THE PLANT YOURSELF IF YOU KNOW WHAT YOU'RE DOING.

AS YOU CAN PROBABLY FEEL AND SMELL BY NOW, YOUR BOWELS ARE RELEASING.

SORT OF EMBARRASSING, BUT IT'S OKAY. YOU WON'T CARE ABOUT THAT FOR MUCH LONGER.


PRETTY SOON, SHERIFF PATTERSON IS GOING TO BE HERE WITH HIS DEPUTIES.
CLICK
I'LL EXPLAIN HOW I WAS HIDING UNTIL I COULD PROVE MY INNOCENCE.
YOUR MOM AGREED TO MEET ME WHEN WE REALIZED THAT *YOU* WERE THE KILLER.
YOUR DARKROOM? YOUR LITTLE LOCKBOX?
WE WERE ABOUT TO CONTACT THE SHERIFF WHEN YOU BROKE IN, HOLDING US AT GUN-POINT.
SHUNK
YOU STABBED YOUR MOTHER REPEATEDLY FOR BETRAYING YOU, AND YOU WOUNDED ME WHEN I TRIED TO STOP YOU.
YOU RECOGNIZE THE KNIFE?
I GOTTA SAY, I'M PRETTY DISAPPOINTED.
ONLY *IDIOTS* WHO DON'T KNOW WHAT THEY'RE DOING USE A GUN.
I'LL TELL THE SHERIFF WE WRESTLED FOR IT...
...AND AS WE STRUGGLED, THE GUN WENT OFF, TAKING MOST OF YOUR *HEAD* WITH IT.

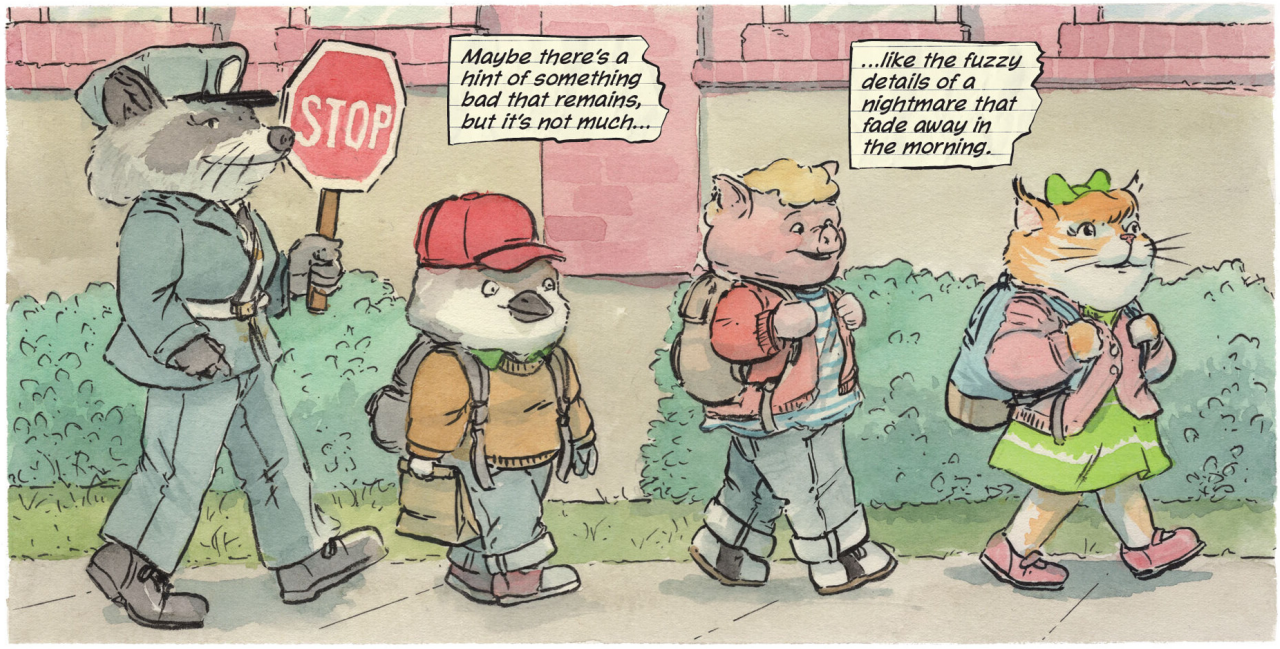
IT'LL BE A BIG MESS, BUT THAT'S OKAY.
I'LL CLEAN UP WHATEVER'S LEFT OF YOU AND MOVE ON WITH MY LIFE.
YOU'RE NOT A KILLER...
...YOU'RE JUST A DUMB KID WHO DIDN'T KNOW WHAT HE WAS DOING.
YOU KNOW? YOUR MOM AND I MIGHT GO BACK 40 YEARS...
...BUT SHE WAS JUST SOMEONE I KNEW.
I LIKED HER WELL ENOUGH, BUT THAT WAS ABOUT IT.
I DON'T PRETEND TO KNOW WHAT LOVE IS...
...YOUR MOTHER DID, THOUGH.
SHE KNEW ALL ABOUT WHAT YOU'D BEEN DOING AND STILL WENT ON LOVING YOU. DID YOU KNOW SHE KNEW?
THAT'S SO SPECIAL...
HOW COULD YOU KILL HER, NIGEL?
CLICK
THE ONLY PERSON IN THIS WHOLE WORLD WHO LOVED YOU.
HOW COULD YOU DO THAT TO HER?
Oh, well.
BANG


"AND SUDDENLY A SMALL TOWN'S *NIGHTMARE* IS *OVER.*
"SHOCKING REVELATIONS ARE OUT THIS MORNING EXONERATING PREVIOUS SUSPECT SAMANTHA STRONG AND CONFIRMING THE SON OF HER LONGTIME FRIEND AS THE *NEW* SUSPECT IN A STRING OF MURDERS THAT HAVE ROCKED WOODBROOK.
2
3
"FRAMING SAMANTHA FOR THE MURDERS, NIGEL ALBRIGHT SURPRISED THE TWO WOMEN LAST NIGHT IN STRONG'S HOME IN AN ATTEMPT TO SILENCE THEM BEFORE THEY COULD INFORM AUTHORITIES OF THEIR SUSPICIONS, ACCORDING TO AN EARLY STATEMENT FROM THE SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT.
"THE CONFRONTATION ENDED *TRAGICALLY,* WITH THE SUSPECT STABBING HIS MOTHER TO DEATH BEFORE BEING MORTALLY WOUNDED IN A STRUGGLE WITH MS. STRONG OVER A FIREARM."

A DRAMATIC CONCLUSION TO A VERY DARK TIME FOR THIS COMMUNITY...
...ONE THAT'S LEFT THIS TOWN REELING BUT READY TO MOVE ON AND HEAL.
IN WOODBROOK, I'M REBECCA LEE FOR ACTION EIGHT NEWS.
And just like that, the town came back to life.

The cold grip of fear thawing out...

...allowing folks to rejoin the world as they remembered it before it turned so strange.


STOP
Maybe there's a hint of something bad that remains, but it's not much...
...like the fuzzy details of a nightmare that fade away in the morning.

And maybe, little by little...
WOODBROOK ENGINE NO.1 FIRE DEPT.
SHOP LOCAL

TOOLS

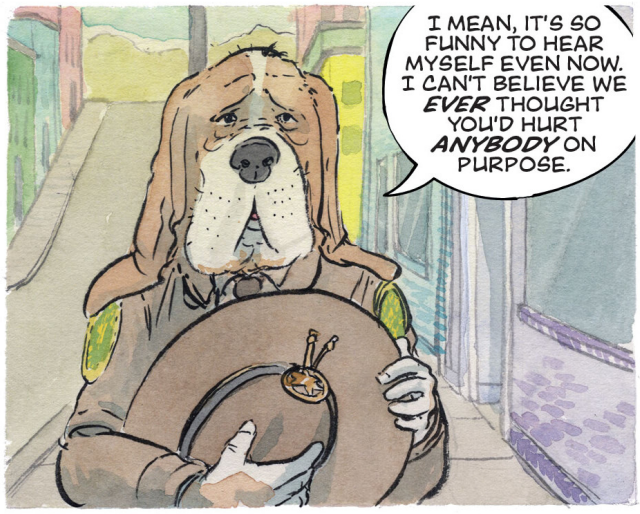
...some hope can grow for something new.
SHOP LOCAL

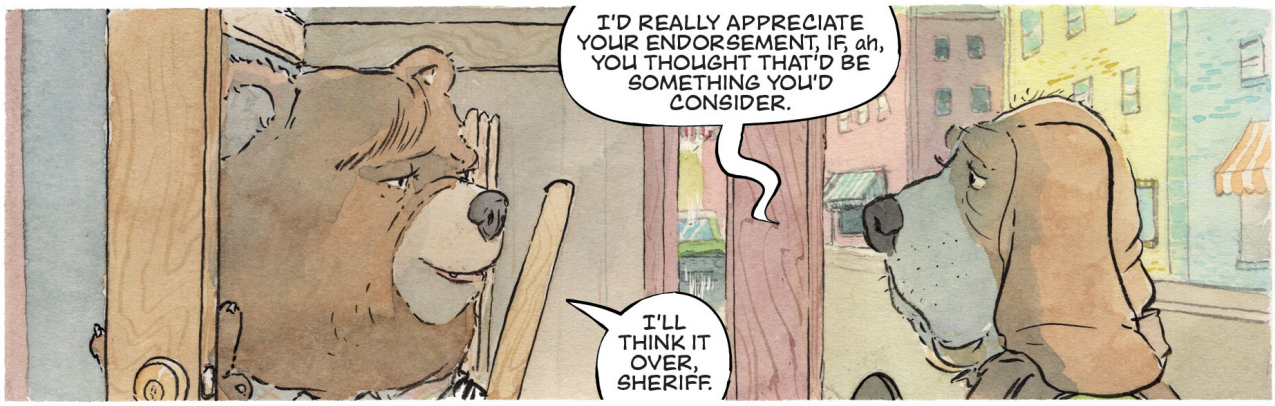
HI, SAM.

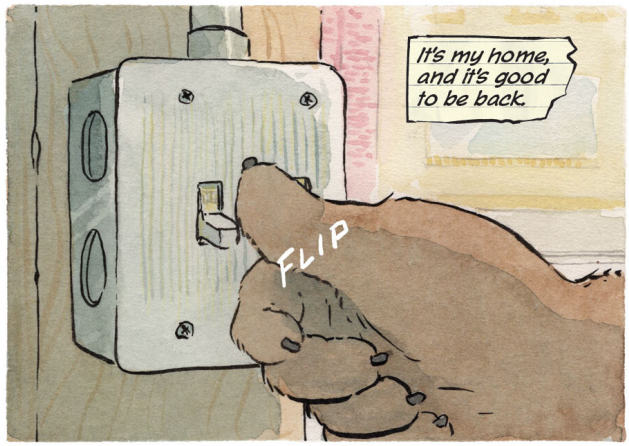
I MADE YOU THIS. I JUST WANTED TO LET YOU KNOW THAT I NEVER BELIEVED YOU KILLED CHARLIE, SAM.
Oh, PAULINE, THANK YOU. IS THIS YOUR MOLEZITI CASSEROLE?

CHARLIE ALWAYS SAID YOU WOULD SNEAK BITES OF HIS WHENEVER HE BROUGHT LEFTOVERS TO WORK FOR LUNCH.

YOU KNOW, I FOUND A LITTLE SOMETHING HERE THAT I THINK BELONGS TO YOU.
OH!
HIS WEDDING RING! OUR LITTLE FINGERS ARE TOO STUBBY. WE WORE THEM ON CHAINS SO THEY'D BE CLOSE TO OUR HEARTS.
I MISS HIM SO MUCH, SAM!
I DON'T KNOW IF I CAN DO THIS! THE KIDS ARE SO YOUNG.
I'M ALWAYS HERE WHENEVER YOU NEED ME.
=Sniff=
I'M SORRY. I--
--I'M GLAD YOU KILLED NIGEL, SAM.
SAMANTHA STRONG, YOU GOT A MINUTE TO TALK?
SO, ah... IT'S BEEN A CRAZY COUPLE OF WEEKS...
...and, ah... well...
...I JUST WANTED TO APOLOGIZE AND SAY I'M SORRY FOR THINKING YOU WERE THE KILLER AND ALL THAT.







Now I think it's time for this bear to take it easy..

...maybe hibernate for a bit while things calm down.

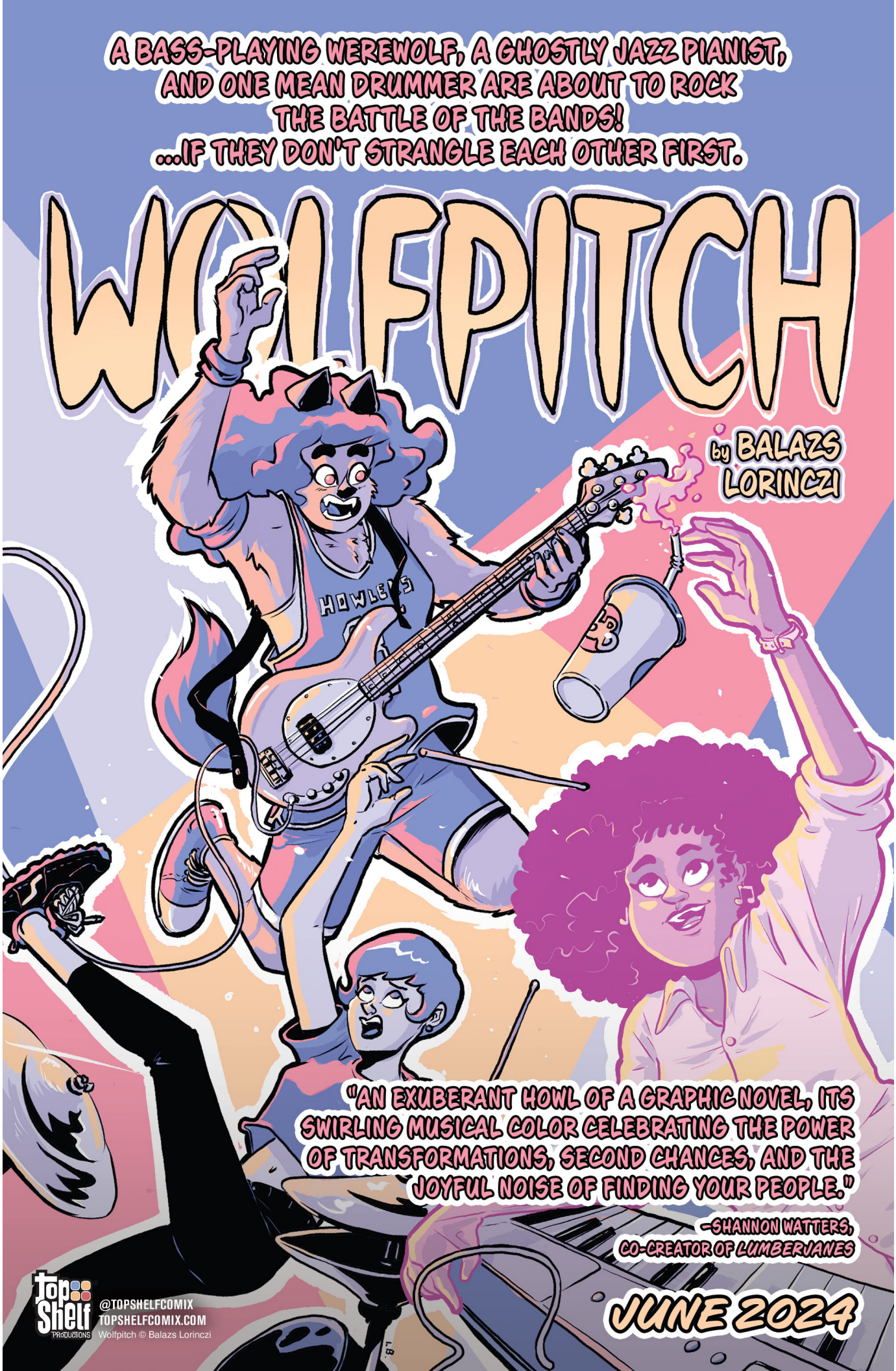
Sweet dreams.

THE END.

ARTWORK BY
PATRICK HORVATH

ARTWORK BY
RILEY ROSSMO

GOLGOTHA
MOTOR MOUNTAIN
STRAP IN FOR A RIDE THROUGH COSMIC HELL!
LAUNCHING IN MARCH
IDW ORIGINAL
@IDWPUBLISHING
IDWPUBLISHING.COM
© Matthew Erman, Lonnie Nadler, and Robbi Rodriguez


A BASS-PLAYING WEREWOLF, A GHOSTLY JAZZ PIANIST, AND ONE MEAN DRUMMER ARE ABOUT TO ROCK THE BATTLE OF THE BANDS! ...IF THEY DON'T STRANGLE EACH OTHER FIRST.
WOLFPITCH
by BALAZS LORINCZI
HOWLERS
"AN EXUBERANT HOWL OF A GRAPHIC NOVEL, ITS SWIRLING MUSICAL COLOR CELEBRATING THE POWER OF TRANSFORMATIONS, SECOND CHANCES, AND THE JOYFUL NOISE OF FINDING YOUR PEOPLE."
–SHANNON WATTERS, CO-CREATOR OF LUMBERJANES
Top Shelf PRODUCTIONS
@TOPSHELFCOMIX
TOPSHELFCOMIX.COM
Wolfpitch © Balazs Lorinczi
JUNE 2024

YOU BETTER HOPE YOUR PAST REGRETS ARE LOCKED UP TIGHT, BECAUSE THE NEXT STOP ON THE HOLLYWOOD SPECIAL IS WITH THE MISMATCH MAN. ALL ABOARD!

WRITER JEREMY LAMBERT (*DOOM PATROL, BUFFY THE VAMPIRE SLAYER*), ARTIST CLAIRE ROE (*BURY THE LEDE, BATGIRL AND THE BIRDS OF PREY*), AND COLORIST JORDIE BELLAIRE (*DETECTIVE COMICS, HELLBLAZER*) UNEARTH A MONSTER THAT FEEDS ON THE THINGS WHICH HAUNT US IN THIS NIGHTMARISH ADDITION TO SCOTT SNYDER'S *DARK SPACES* LINE OF NERVE-SHREDDING THRILLERS

IDW @IDWPUBLISHING IDWPUBLISHING.COM

JUNE 2024

© Jeremy Lambert and Claire Roe

IDW 25 YEARS VIEW FROM THE BACK PAGE

THIS MONTH, IDW IS GOING BACK TO SCHOOL. SPECIFICALLY, MONSTER HIGH

We couldn't be more defrighted to partner with Mattel to bring you all new stories based on some of the ghoulest—and certainly most spooktacular!—dolls around.

When *Monster High* debuted back in 2010, they took the world by storm by combining classic horror with high fashion and a whole lotta 21st-century cattitude. Frankie Stein, Cleo de Nile, Clawdeen Wolf, Draculaura, and their beasties quickly became iclawns while also spreading a message that it's clawsome to embrace your uniqueness. Doesn't matter if you have fangs, scales, fur, or claws, all monsters are welcome at Monster High.

IDW's comics will continue the stories of the fearsome foursome and take them on new, totally fangtastic adventures. Our new scaremester kicks things off with two springtime events.

First, this May 4, head to your local comic book store and get your copy of our very special Free Comic Book Day *Monster High* issue. It features an all-new prologue to the upcoming series, as well as the "boo's who" on all the ghoulest monsters in the series.

Then, head back to the shop at the end of the month for *Monster High* Pride 2024, a special one-shot comic book created to skelebrate Pride Month. It features two stories about LGBTQIA+ love... Well, kind of. Clawdeen and Toralei are totally claws over tails for each other, but Kieran Valentine thinks love *sucks*.

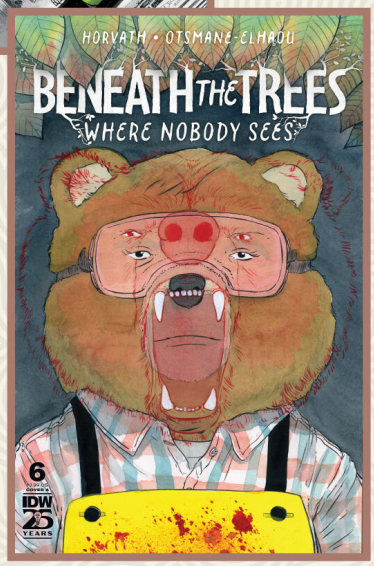
Behind the screams, authors like Jacque Aye (the mastermind behind New Scaremester), Megan Brown, and Hannah Templer have been brewing up scream-worthy stories. And artists like Siobhan Keenan, Luciannys Camacho, and Caroline Shuda are concocting gore-geous art. But they're going batty keeping the stories a secret!

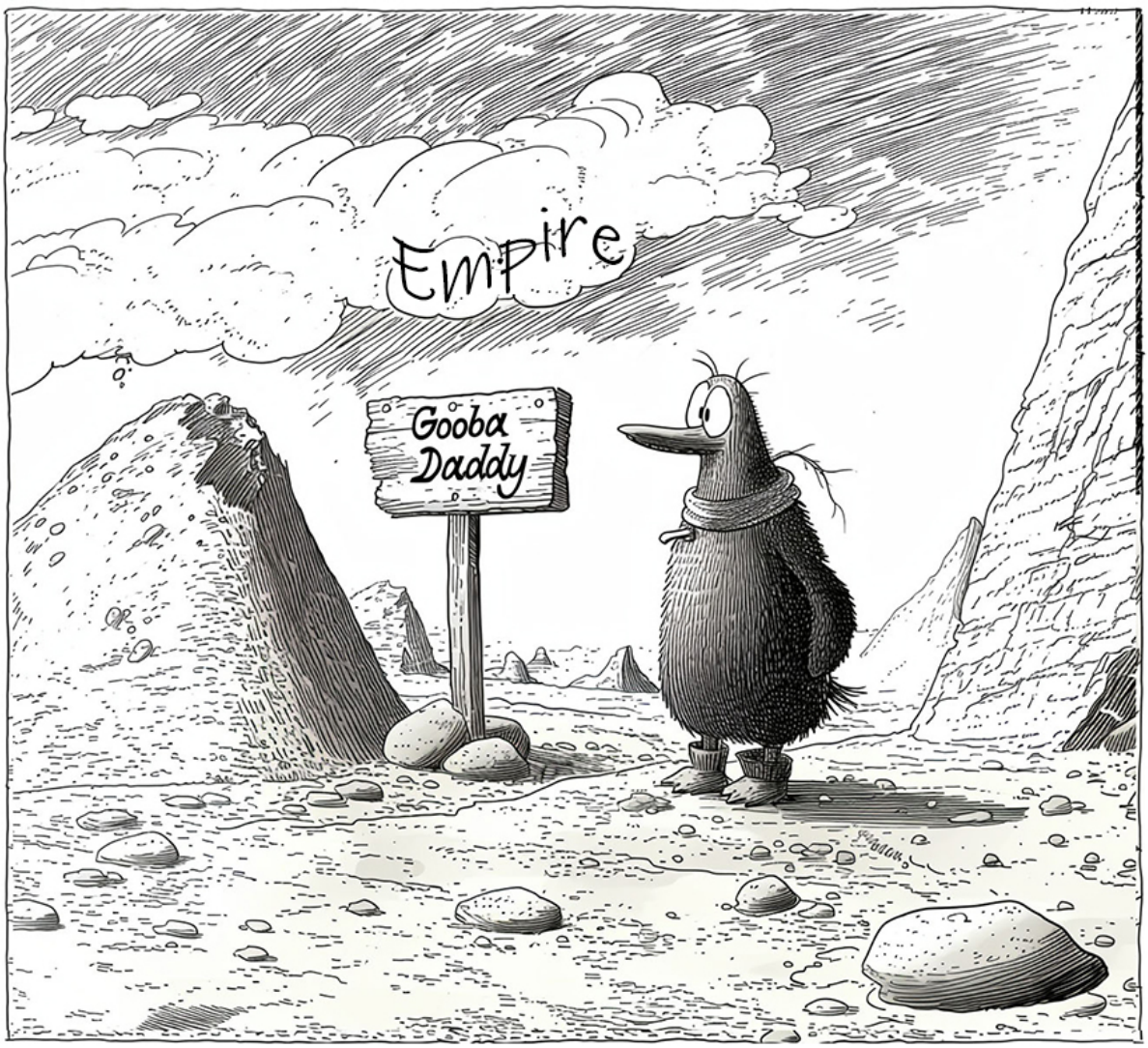
If this freak peak doesn't have you dying for the launch of *Monster High* next month, then I don't know what will! No fear pressure!

Riley Farmer
editor

Jamie S. Rich
editor-in-chief

ON SALE MAY 8th




Empire
Gooba
Daddy